PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To:

JORIO, Paolo
STUDIO TORTA S.r.l.
Via Viotti, 9
I-10121 TORINO
ITALIE

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of mailing *(day/month/year)*	25.05.2005

Applicant's or agent's file reference	IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION
E-1969/03	

International application No.	International filing date *(day/month/year)*	Priority date *(day/month/year)*
PCT/EP 03/51116	30.12.2003	14.01.2003

Applicant
G.D SOCIETA' PER AZIONI et al.

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.

2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.

3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

4. **REMINDER**

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

The applicant's attention is drawn to Article 33(5), which provides that the criteria of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability described in Article 33(2) to (4) merely serve the purposes of international preliminary examination and that "any Contracting State may apply additional or different criteria for the purposes of deciding whether, in that State, the claimed inventions is patentable or not" (see also Article 27(5)). Such additional criteria may relate, for example, to exemptions from patentability, requirements for enabling disclosure, clarity and support for the claims.

Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:

European Patent Office
D-80298 Munich
Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d
Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465

Authorized Officer

de Santiago Gomez, A

Tel. +49 89 2399-8224

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference E-1969/03	**FOR FURTHER ACTION**	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/EP 03/51116	International filing date *(day/month/year)* 30.12.2003	Priority date *(day/month/year)* 14.01.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC B65B19/22		
Applicant G.D SOCIETA' PER AZIONI et al.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

   ☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

   These annexes consist of a total of 4 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

   - I ☒ Basis of the opinion
   - II ☐ Priority
   - III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
   - IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
   - V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
   - VI ☐ Certain documents cited
   - VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
   - VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
06.08.2004	25.05.2005
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority: European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer Janc, G Telephone No. +49 89 2399-2553

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/EP 03/51116

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application *(Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17))*:

Description, Pages

3-7	as originally filed
1, 2	received on 17.11.2004 with letter of 08.11.2004

Claims, Numbers

1-5	received on 17.11.2004 with letter of 08.11.2004

Drawings, Sheets

1-3	as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

   These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

   ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).

   ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).

   ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

   ☐ contained in the international application in written form.

   ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

   ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

   ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

   ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

   ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

   ☐ the description, pages:

   ☐ the claims, Nos.:

   ☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

   (Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	1-5
	No:	Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	1-5
	No:	Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-5
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

   see separate sheet

V: Closest prior art is CH 405 911, Hesser. No suggestion is found in the available documents to the special step of offset superimposition of the inner wrapping and the collar blanks thereby simplifying the formation of the tubular package.

10/542384
JC17 Rec'd PCT/PTO 14 JUL 2005

METHOD OF PRODUCING A HINGED-LID PACKET OF CIGARETTES

The present invention relates to a method of producing a hinged-lid packet of cigarettes.

The present invention is particularly suitable for producing hinged-lid packets of cigarettes having bevelled or rounded longitudinal edges, or a cross section with no edges, such as an at least partly circular or oval section.

The normal way of producing packets of this type - which comprises forming a foil inner wrapping about a group of cigarettes, applying and retaining a collar of cardboard or similar on the inner wrapping, and forming an outer package of cardboard or similar about the whole so formed - has various drawbacks, due to the difficulty normally encountered, for lack of square reference edges, in keeping the collar in position on the inner wrapping when forming the outer package.

CH-405911-A discloses a machine for producing folded hinged-lid boxes, in which a cardboard collar for a box is cut from a web and is sealed to the bag web prior to the bag web being cut into bag lengths and folded around a mandrel around which a box blank is sub-sequently folded. The cardboard web is cut whilst held between elements and is immediately tacked by a heating device to the web prior to the final sealing along either edge by the die and sealing members. The bag blanks are folded around the mandrel by an upward movable folding tool and the longitudinal seam formed by sealing tools. The mandrels carried on an intermittently rotatable wheel are

rebated at the collar ends at by amounts corresponding to the width and depth of the cardboard strips. The bag is closed at the collar end by a seam making two triangular corner folds.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a method which not only eliminates the aforementioned drawbacks in a straightforward, low-cost manner, but also simplifies formation of the inner wrapping, which is also problematic in the absence of square longitudinal edges.

According to the present invention, there is provided a method of producing a hinged-lid packet as recited in the attached Claims.

A non-limiting embodiment of the present invention will be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 shows a view in perspective, with parts removed for clarity, of a hinged-lid packet produced using the method according to the present invention;

Figure 2 shows a flat blank by which to produce an outer package of the Figure 1 packet;

Figure 3 shows two superimposed flat blanks for producing an inner wrapping and a collar of the Figure 1 packet.

Number 1 in Figure 1 indicates as a whole a hinged-lid packet 1 of cigarettes having a longitudinal axis 2, and comprising an outer package 3 made of cardboard or similar and defined by a body 4, and by a lid 5 hinged to body 4 along a hinge 6, crosswise to axis 2, to move, with respect to body 4, between an open position and a

CLAIMS

1) A method of producing a hinged-lid packet of cigarettes; the method comprising the steps of:

folding a first blank (18) of foil about a group (8) of cigarettes (9) for forming a an inner wrapping (7);

folding a second blank (17) about the inner wrapping (7) to define a body (4) and a lid (5) hinged to each other and for forming an outer package (3);

folding a third blank (19) for forming a collar (10), which is interposed between the inner wrapping (7) and the outer package (3) and projects from the body (4) to engage the lid (5);

juxtaposing the third blank (19) and the first blank (18) in a given superimposed position; and

simultaneously folding the first and the third blank (18, 19) about the group (8) of cigarettes (9);

the method being characterized in that both the inner wrapping (7) and the collar (10) are tubular, and the given superimposed position is a transversely offset position, wherein a first lateral portion (40) of the third blank (19) projects laterally with respect to the first blank (18), and a second lateral portion (44) of the first blank (18) projects laterally with respect to the third blank (19) on the opposite side of the third blank (19) to the first lateral portion (40).

2) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the first and the third blank (18, 19) are connected to each other in the given superimposed position.

3) A method as claimed in Claim 1 or 2, wherein the

first blank (18) is folded along fold lines (45, 46) formed after the first blank (18) is positioned in the given superimposed position with respect to the third blank (19).

4) A method as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the fold lines (45, 46) are located on the first blank (18) as a function of the given superimposed position.

5) A method as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein the first and the third blank (18, 19) are folded simultaneously into a tube, and are stabilized by connecting the first and the second lateral portion (40, 44) to laterally opposite portions (41, 47) of the third blank (19) and first blank (18) respectively.